

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, CE

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS' REMARKS FOR CREDENTIALS CEREMONY

REF: STATE 186598

1. FOLLOWING IS A SUGGESTED DRAFT TEXT OF REMARKS FOR PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS, FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT AND AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS. IN A PREVIOUS MESSAGE NOT REPEATED TO SINGAPORE, WE POINTED OUT THAT NORMALLY PROTOCOL HERE WISHES ONE TO TWO WEEKS ADVANCE POSSESSION OF THE APPROVED TEXT IN ORDER TO PREPARE A REPLY FOR THE PRESIDENT. IN THIS CASE, WE BELIEVE THAT IF THE TEXT CAN BE CLEARED AND FURNISHED TO PROTOCOL BY THE END OF THIS WEEK, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO SET THE CEREMONY FOR SOME TIME BETWEEN 17TH AND 19TH.

2. DRAFT REMARKS FOR THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY AMBASSADOR W. HOWARD WRIGGINS TO PRESIDENT WILLIAM GOPALLAWA:

I HAVE THE HONOR TO PRESENT TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THE LETTER OF RECALL OF MY PREDECESSOR, MR. JOHN H. REED, AND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LETTER OF CREDENCE WITH WHICH MY PRESIDENT, JIMMY CARTER, HAS ACCREDITED ME AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU, AND THROUGH YOU TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SRI LANKA, HIS SINCERE GREETINGS AND VERY BEST WISHES FOR THE HAPPINESS, PROSPERITY AND WELL-BEING OF YOURSELF AND THE SRI

LANKAN PEOPLE.

I BELIEVE THAT I HAVE THE DISTINCT HONOR TO BE THE FIRST AMBASSADOR TO PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS TO YOU FOLLOWING THE MOST RECENT DEMONSTRATION BY THE PEOPLE OF YOUR COUNTRY OF THEIR DEEP ATTACHMENT TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS, TRULY THE EYES OF THE WORLD HAVE BEEN UPON THE REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA, WHICH HAS ONCE AGAIN GIVEN EVIDENCE OF ITS SENSE OF CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY. I SHOULD LIKE, MR. PRESIDENT, ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, TO CONVEY OUR TRIBUTE TO THE POLITICAL MATURITY AND TO THE ATTACHMENT TO GOVERNMENT BASED UPON THE EXPRESSION OF FREE CHOICE WHICH THE PEOPLE OF YOUR FINE COUNTRY HAVE AGAIN MANIFESTED.

AS YOU KNOW, THE SUBJECT OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS IN MANY PLACES IN RECENT MONTHS, AND MY OWN COUNTRY HAS HAD OCCASION TO REAFFIRM MORE THAN ONCE OUR DEDICATION TO SUCH RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES. IT IS HEARTENING TO ME TO BE ABLE TO OBSERVE THAT FEW COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD SO CLOSELY SHARE OUR BELIEF THAT INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS SHOULD ENJOY POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FREEDOM AS DOES SRI LANKA. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE FREEDOMS ALSO INVOLVE OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD ALL ELEMENTS OF OUR SOCIETIES, AS WELL AS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE INDIVIDUAL. IN THIS RESPECT, SRI LANKA IS CERTAINLY A COUNTRY WHICH HAS SHOWN A GENUINE CONCERN FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND WHICH HAS DONE A GREAT DEAL TO BRING TO ITS PEOPLE THE BENEFITS OF A BROAD EDUCATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BASE, AN EXCELLENT SYSTEM OF PUBLIC MEDICAL CARE, A MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS, AND A WIDE-SPREAD NETWORK OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

BUT WE LIVE IN A WORLD OF CHANGING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ORDERS. AS YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR GOVERNMENT HAVE COME TO FOCUS MORE ATTENTION ON THE VERY BASIC QUESTION OF HOW TO EXPAND THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE GREATER EMPLOYMENT AND TO SECURE THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE, WITHOUT THE DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS OF PRICE INFLATION - A QUESTION WHICH TODAY PREOCCUPIES MUCH OF THE WORLD - IT SEEMS TO ME THAT ONE COMES TO THINK OF TRADITIONAL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS. THESE ARE YOUR TIES WITH THE MANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND WITH THOSE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES WITH WHICH YOUR PEOPLE HAVE COME TO ENJOY OVER THE YEARS SUCH HARMONIOUS AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS AS IS THE CASE WITH MY OWN.

MR. PRESIDENT, AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE BEEN PERSONALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE STUDY OF EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN SRI LANKA OVER MORE THAN TWO DECADES, IN MY CAPACITY AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN AND A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY. I HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO HAVE ESTABLISHED MANY WARM AND LASTING FRIENDSHIPS WITH INDIVIDUAL SRI LANKANS. BUT BEYOND THESE INDIVIDUAL CONTACTS, MY ASSOCIATION WITH YOUR COUNTRY HAS

BROUGHT ME A DEEP AFFECTION AND A PROFOUND RESPECT FOR THE HISTORY, THE CULTURE, AND WHAT ONE MIGHT SUM UP AS THE GENIUS OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS WONDERFUL ISLAND NATION. YOUR GOOD HUMOR, YOUR COURAGE, YOUR INGENUITY, AND ABOVE ALL YOUR DEVOTION TO EQUALITY OF TREATMENT FOR ALL PERSONS, HAVE COMBINED TO COMMAND THE FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, AND TO INSTILL IN ME PERSONALLY A WARM AFFECTION AND ADMIRATION FOR THE SRI LANKAN PEOPLE.

AND SO, MR. PRESIDENT, AS I TAKE UP MY DUTIES AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THOSE OF SRI LANKA, I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE WARM TIES WHICH HAVE UNITED OUR TWO COUNTRIES SO CLOSELY FOR SOME TWO CENTURIES, AS WE HAD OCCASION TO RECALL A YEAR AGO DURING OUR OWN BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS, WILL CONTINUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLES OF BOTH LANDS. I PLEDGE MYSELF TO DO MY BEST TO INSURE THAT MUTAL FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING WILL MARK OUR FUTURE RELATIONS.
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